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SEP. 12 1972

# MONTANA LETTER

PROCUREMENT SECTION  
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

August 29, 1972

## NELSON NAMED TO COMMITTEE

We are pleased to welcome Harold C. Nelson of Cut Bank, chairman of the Glacier County committee since 1963, to the State committee. His experience in farming and ranching and in the administration of ASC programs will enable him to make a real contribution to policy determination and program direction at the State level.

Harold's appointment was announced earlier this month by Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz to fill the vacancy left when Dick Smiley became State director of the Farmer's Home Administration.

A rancher in Glacier County since 1936, Harold now owns and operates a 9,000-acre spread. About 1,440 acres are devoted to production of wheat and other small grains with the remaining acreage in hay and pasture to provide feed for his 600 head of cattle, including 350 beef cows.



Nelson

Harold was first elected as chairman of the Glacier County committee for 1963. He represented his area as a community committeeman for two years

before that. He is a 20-year member of the Farm Bureau and belongs to the Farmers Union. He is also affiliated with the American Cattleman's Association, the Montana Stockgrowers Association, the Montana Chamber of Commerce and the Montana Taxpayers Association. He is a director of the First National Bank of Cut Bank.

## WHEAT DISCOUNT TO END

The loan discount program for wheat varieties designated as undesirable for milling and baking purposes will end with this year's crop. It is being terminated because of the small proportion of undesirable varieties in the total wheat crop, the introduction of numerous varieties by private plant breeders, and the USDA policy of encouraging producers to place greater reliance on marketing.

The latest survey of wheat varieties and classes shows that undesirable varieties represented less than half of 1 percent of the total acreage planted to wheat in 1969. When the program began, 7 percent of total plantings were varieties considered undesirable.

Over the years, varieties with undesirable milling and baking characteristics have been identified by the Agricultural Research Service after consultation with research and crop improvement groups. Wheat of an undesirable variety, which is offered for price support, is discounted 20 cents per bushel and is

ineligible for protein premiums.

Undesirable varieties named for this year's program are: Hard red winter - Cache, Red Chief, Wasatch, and Yogo; hard red spring - Era, Henry, Nainari 60, Neepawa, Penjamo 62, Red River 68, Spinkota, and Super X; white - Gaines, when grown east of the Continental Divide, and Siete Cerro 66.

### **EARTHY YEARBOOK**

USDA's Yearbook of Agriculture is out early this year - just in time for the fall planting season.

Entitled "Landscape For Living," it focuses on gardening, a pastime favored by 80 million Americans, and contains much practical, basic background information.

You can read about plants that will withstand and actually reduce pollution, go around the world with one of



USDA's plant scientists searching for new and better plants, learn about plants that will attract birds

to your garden, how to control garden pests, how to control erosion ..... even how to be a "lazy gardener" with carefree plants.

It's all just a part of the information in the 62 chapters of the 1972 Yearbook, available now.

The Department does not give out or

sell the Yearbook. Copies are for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Price is \$3.50.

### **CCC BINS SELL WELL**

Grain bins capable of storing slightly more than a million bushels of grain have changed hands during our recent series of bin sales. The sales were authorized as part of our continuing program to make available for private ownership bins no longer needed by CCC.

Of the 273 bins sold at seven locations in the State, 270 round bins, each with a capacity of 3,250 bushels, brought an average of \$573. Three quonsets, capable of storing approximately 41,000 bushels each, averaged \$4,166.

With these sales, all bins were sold at the Geraldine, Hogeland, and Denton sites, reducing the total number of bin locations in the State to 22. On these sites are 972 bins with a total storage capacity of 3,386,464 bushels.

These remaining Government-owned bins, when not needed for storage of CCC grain, are available for rental by producers. The rental rate is one cent per bushel of bin capacity per month.

### **McMULLEN ON USDA COMMITTEE**

James R. McMullen, ASCS Northwest Regional deputy director, has been named to the USDA's Young Executives Committee for fiscal year 1973. The purpose of the group will be "to bring together bright young talent to work on and provide fresh insights to interagency and department-wide problems and opportunities," according to USDA Under Secretary Campbell.

## EMPHASIS ON QUALITY STORAGE

Now that the grain crop--good, bad, and average--is being harvested, it's time to consider marketing.

With wheat prices up substantially in recent weeks and feed grains holding steady, an immediate sale may be desirable for many producers. Others, for various reasons, may want to delay sales to a more opportune time or in hopes of a better price.

If immediate sale is not in your plans, then storage, either temporary or long term, must be. And whether you intend to hold your grain for a few months, or a year, or more, the condition of your storage bin deserves consideration.

Art Shaw, Extension agronomist at Montana State University, recently authored an article for the Montana Farmer-Stockman suggesting various actions to be taken for the proper storage of grain. Our county offices will be mailing copies of this article to grain producers. We hope you will pick up some good pointers from it.

Art emphasizes the need for precautionary measures to prevent contamination of grain, pointing out that increasing pressure is being exerted to assure that food supplies are clean from point of production to consumption.

We are particularly concerned about con-

tamination of grain offered for government loan. Commodity Credit is not in a position to determine whether or not a particular lot of grain is "actionable"

by Pure Food and Drug Act standards. Therefore, we must be cautious either by not making loans on grain susceptible to contaminating influences or by calling loans already made on bins of grain which show visible evidence of contamination after a period of storage. We feel this is prudent business both for the borrower and for Commodity Credit.

For those who might be contemplating taking a CCC loan on their grain, therefore, bins which are bird and rodent proof are essential. Financing to help construct this kind of storage structure is still available under the grain bin and drying equipment loan program.

Incidentally, this year we are requiring that bins containing grain placed under loan be identified with a permanent number. This will help producers and ASCS maintain accurate records of bins under loan and avoid those misunderstandings which sometimes come up when loan grain is redeemed, moved, or delivered.

Where a producer has a number of bins either at one location or at several locations, it is much more definite to

### *Turn of the Century*

Back about the time the Wright brothers were taking to flight, Americans were on quite a different diet than they are today.

People of moderate means ate mostly solid, filling foods--meats, poultry, fish, potatoes, bread and other starchy foods, dry beans and peas.

Fresh fruit was expensive.

Hardly anyone ate salads. In fact, because of the different growing seasons, it was about impossible to have both lettuce and tomatoes at the same time.

And vegetables were limited to what was in season locally, with the exception of those that could be stored in the cold cellar, such as cabbage, carrots, and onions, and those that were canned or dried.

A typical dinner for a city family of average means around the turn of the century might be pea soup, beef stew, boiled potatoes, and bread.

The menu was also limited somewhat by cooking facilities. Just about all foods were prepared at home. So even in the city in summer, it would be necessary to fire up a coal or wood stove in order to bake a roast.

But for today's family, dinner choices have broadened. There's a wide choice of meats, fruits, vegetables, and processed foods possible year round even within a moderate budget. And today's kitchen equipment and commercial processing permit a wide range of preparation methods.

A typical menu in the 1970's might include beef roast instead of the beef stew at the turn of the century, baked potato and bread and rolls are likely staples, frozen green beans and a lettuce and tomato salad with thousand island dressing have probably been added, and apple pie or other dessert is more common now.

identify a bin by number than by description or by location relative to other bins or buildings.

As a service, our bin inspectors will be glad to help borrowers apply permanent numbers to their bins.

### **SPREADING IT THIN...AND QUICK**

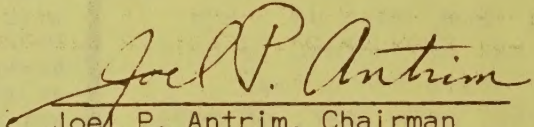
WOOL EXPORTS from the United States during the first six months of 1972 were equivalent to approximately 15 million pounds of clean raw wool. Leading customers, in order, were Japan, West Germany, Canada, France, and Hong Kong....WHILE OUR TREMENDOUS SALE of grain to Russia attracts the most attention, sales to other countries continue. Recently these include 2.3 million bushels of wheat or flour equivalent to Ecuador; 2.2 million bushels to Uruguay; and 1.7 million bushels to Israel....

MEASURING SERVICE to determine extent and quality of 1973 wheat set-aside acreage is now available through ASCS county offices.

Use of the service includes a guarantee that the

acreage will be of acceptable quality and sufficient to meet program requirements....WEATHER AND CROP reporting service to agriculture is beginning its second century this year. The first reports on weather and its impact on agriculture were published in 1872 by the National Weather Service (as part of the Army's Signal Corps)....BEEF CONSUMPTION per capita is expected to increase 3 to 4 percent

this year, offsetting declines in veal, pork, and lamb. Use of eggs is also expected to be down slightly...."FOR EVERY FARMER there is at least one worker engaged in supplying the farmer with equipment, goods, and services that enable him to handle more acres, gain higher yields, and do his work easier and better. For every farmer, there are at least two workers involved in the processing and distributing of products that originated on the farm." - Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz....

  
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